TICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake a review of all pending Special Leave Petitions on service matters from the Supreme Court to withdraw all such SLPs where neither any substantial question of law nor question of public importance is involved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and how the Government propose to provide speedy justice to the Government servants; and

(c) the details of the SLPs pending in the Supreme Court till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTRAY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As on 27th November, 1991, 9238 SLPs on service matters are pending in the Supreme Court.

[*Translation*]

Trade with France

1409. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged France in October, 1991 to double the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard by the Indo-French Joint Trade Council; and

(c) the names of the commodities likely to be imported from France and exported from India, their prices and mutually agreed rates and the details of other conditions laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The scope for a quantum jump in Indo-French bilateral trade was referred to in the meeting of the Joint Business Council held on 23rd October, 1991 in New Delhi.

(b) The Indo-French Joint Business Council is promoting greater interaction between businessman on both sides and disseminating relevant information.

(c) The commodities involved in two-way trade and their prices are determined by importers and exporters on either side.

Licences for Opium Farming

1410. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers growing opium had to suffer heavy losses last year due to opium crops being afflicted with diseases;

(b) whether the farmers have to give a fixed proportion of their produce to the Government falling which their licences are cancelled; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to ensure that the licences of the farmers are not cancelled for not supplying the fixed proportion of their produce because of the disease-afflicted opium crops last year so that the may continue to grow opium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). During crop year 1990-1991, poppy crop was adversely affected by pests, insects and hail-

storms in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and by untimely rains and gusty winds in Uttar Pradesh resulting in fall in yield of opium.

The opium cultivators are required to tender their entire produce of opium to the Central Government. Government also prescribes every year minimum qualifying yield which a cultivator must have tendered to the Government in the previous year to become eligible for licence to cultivate opium poppy. The minimum qualifying yield fixed for granting licences for 1991-92 has been fixed at 34 kgs. per hectare in the case of M.P. and Rajasthan and 32 kgs. per hectare in the case of U.P. To ensure that cultivators in whose village there was some damage/ widespread damage to their crops are not delicensed, a provision has been made in the licensing policy that the licences of such cultivators will be renewed even if they had tendered opium less than the prescribed qualifying yield.

Replacement of Old DTC Buses

1411. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of D.T.C. buses which have over lived their life;

(b) the reasons for not withdrawing these buses from operation; and

(c) the time by which these buses would be replaced by new buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 31.10.91 DTC had 1, 520 buses which are over 8 year old.

(b) and (c). Replacement of overaged buses is a continuing process. During the year 1991-92, there is a provision of Rs. 43.25 crores for purchase of buses on replacement account. In the meantime with a view to ensure continuity of services and to avoid public complains through disruption of services, DTC has been constrained to operate these buses.

Closed and Under-Utilised NTC Mills in Uttar Pradesh

1412. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the NTC mills in Uttar Pradesh which have been lying closed or have been under-utilising their capacity at present;

(b) the losses incurred and number of workers rendered unemployed due to closure of these mills;

(c) whether the Government propose to transfer the management of these mills to the private sector; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There is a lock-out in Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur for more than 2 months as a consequence of widespread labour unrest. However, negotiations are in progress with the trade unions so that lock-out in this mill, may be lifted.

As regards under-utilisation of the mills in NTC (U.P), the average utilisation is to the extent of 59.7%. The capacity utilisation is below average in the case of 6 mills in NTC (U.P).

(b) Due to lock out in Lord Krishna